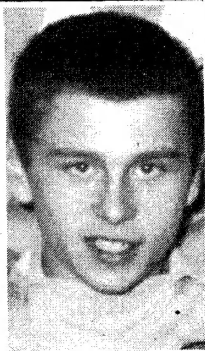




CHRIS WAY
... injured



TONY ASHBY
... schools 'keeper

Ashby steps in to fill breach

A REMARKABLE sequence of events led to Wycombe Schools under 15 goalkeeper Tony Ashby playing for Wycombe Wanderers Reserves in their Suburban League match against Addlestone at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Regular goalkeeper Chris Way cried off after injuring his hand at work. His normal deputy is reserve team manager John Maskell, who was playing for Wycombe before Ashby was born.

But with Mike Keen away watching Saturday FA Trophy opponents Cheltenham, Maskell was in charge of the first team at Hendon.

So the club had no option but to pick Ashby, 15, who has let in only one goal during Wycombe Schools' exciting progress into the last 16 of the English Schools Trophy.

Wycombe Reserves twice found themselves trailing before coming through to win 3-2 for their sixth successive victory. Their goals came from Andy Hunt, Tony Price (pen) and Ken Wilson.

Meanwhile Mr Keen was watching Cheltenham defeat Bromsgrove 3-1 in their Southern League Midland Division match. He will be hoping for a much different result on Saturday.

KIELY MAKES IT A DOUBLE FOR SLOUGH

By MICHAEL KNOX: Slough 2, Wycombe 1

WYCOMBE suffered a cruel and perhaps mortal blow to their Berger Isthmian League title hopes on Thursday when Slough, under pressure for much of the match, snatched a winning goal completely against the run of play.

Mick Kiely slid the ball under Chris Way, eight minutes from time to give Slough a holiday double over the Wanderers and make themselves firm favourites to lift their first ever league title.

If they do go all the way, Slough will clearly look back on this match as the real clincher. Despite losing towering centre half Eric Young, injured in the first half, they absorbed great pressure and struck the killer blow just when it looked as though they might be going under.

Bitter

For Wycombe this was a bitter result. Following the disastrous home defeat by Slough the previous Saturday, Mike Keen made five changes in his most drastic action since taking over as manager.

OUT went goalkeeper Gary Lester, mid-field players Bobby Dell and Jimmy Jacobs, and second leading scorer Steve Long. Also left out was defender Bobby Davies, who was suffering from influenza.

IN came reserve 'keeper Chris Way, Howard Kennedy, Terry Scott, Tony Price and Steve Hardwick. Kennedy and Price returned after injury. Hardwick was back from holiday while Scott, previously substitute, swapped places with Jacobs.

Mr Keen will be delighted by the performance of his reshuffled side who provided plenty of New Year resolution — a quality so visibly lacking in the first match.

With more accurate shooting Wanderers could have gained immediate revenge, but in the end, they will look back to two defensive slips which cost them the game.

Wycombe shaded the goalless first half, the main feature of which was a shoulder injury to Slough's excellent defender Young. He had to leave the field after falling awkwardly. Mick O'Sullivan came into mid-field while Terry Reardon, as versatile as ever, went into the back four.

But the main action came in the second half, which Wycombe dominated for long periods. Slough, on the other hand, created three chances and took two of them.

Close range

The first came right on the hour following a corner on the right by Barry Friend. His first effort was blocked but he got the ball over to the far post at the second attempt and Kiely headed in from close range.

Two questions must be asked of the Wycombe defence. Why was Kiely allowed a free-header five yards out from goal, and why did Way stay rooted to his line as the ball lobbed into the net? From the stands it appeared that the goalkeeper thought the ball was going over the bar.

Wycombe went all out for the equaliser and to assist their cause, Jacobs came on for Price who had faded after a bright start. The move also allowed Scott to play further upfront.

The pressure on the Slough goal was intense and Paul Birdseye, finding himself in some fine shooting positions, frittered away a

great chance by ballooning the ball over the bar in the 75th minute.

However, a minute later, he made amends by scoring his first goal of the season. Birdseye's first shot following George Borg's corner was blocked but his second effort — with the knee — found the net for the all important equaliser.

A Wycombe victory was on the cards. But these hopes were dashed in the 82nd minute when Pat Morrissey played an inch perfect pass into the penalty area. Kiely reacted rather quicker than Way to slip the ball under his body.

Still Wanderers were not finished and they were desperately unlucky to see Birdseye strike a post with another fine shot. It was just not Wycombe's day and to add to their problems Keith Mead was booked for holding back Kiely.

Slough: R. Teale; D. Yerby, S. Norman, J. Beyer, E. Young (sub. M. O'Sullivan, 27 mins), T. Reardon, D. Russell, B. Friend, M. Kiely, P. Morrissey, E. James.

Wycombe: C. Way; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, K. Mead, S. Hardwick, H. Kennedy, A. Price (sub. J. Jacobs, 72 mins), G. Toll, T. Glynn, T. Scott, M. Hollfield.

Referee: A. F. C. Bowers (Kidlington). **Half-time:** 0-0. **Scorers:** Slough — Kiely (60 mins, 82); Wycombe — Birdseye (76).